

Application No. 09/975,588

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In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer including a first audio source and a second audio source, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the speaker from the first audio source and from the second audio source, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:
  - 6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
  - 7 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the computer  
8 program muting the first audio source without user intervention;
  - 9 c) generating a stimulus; and
  - 10 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.
- 1 5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.
- 1 6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting the value of a  
3 volume control.

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1 7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes  
2 muting a microphone audio input.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1, further including:  
2       a) sending first data to the server;  
3       b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4       c) sending second data to the computer.

1 9. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the  
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer including a first audio source  
3 and a second audio source, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the speaker  
4 from the first audio source and from the second audio source, the speaker operable to convert the  
5 electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:

6       a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;  
7       b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the computer  
8           program storing a value that indicates whether the first audio source was muted and if  
9           the stored value indicates that the first audio source was not muted, then muting the  
10           first audio source without user intervention;  
11       c) generating a stimulus;  
12       d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus;  
13           and  
14       e) if the stored value indicates that the first audio source was not muted, then un-muting  
15           the first audio source.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

1 12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.

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- 1    13. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program
- 2    includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.
  
- 1    14. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program
- 2    includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting the value
- 3    of a volume control.
  
- 1    15. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of executing the computer program
- 2    includes muting a microphone audio input.
  
- 1    16. (original) The method of claim 9, further including:
  - 2        a) sending first data to the server;
  - 3        b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and
  - 4        c) sending second data to the computer.
  
- 1    17. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions
- 2    that, when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:
  - 3        a) muting an audio source without user intervention;
  - 4        b) generating a stimulus; and
  - 5        c) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.
  
- 1    18. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the
- 2    first audio source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.
  
- 1    19. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the
- 2    first audio source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.
  
- 1    20. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the
- 2    first audio source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and
- 3    by setting the value of a volume control.

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1 21. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the act of muting the  
2 first audio source includes muting a microphone audio input.

1 22. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:

- 3 a) storing a value that indicates whether a first audio source was muted;
- 4 b) if the first audio source was not muted, then muting the first audio source without  
user intervention;
- 5 c) generating a stimulus;
- 6 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus;  
7 and if the stored value indicates that the first audio source was not muted, then un-  
8 muting the first audio source.

1 23. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.

1 24. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.

1 25. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting  
3 the value of a volume control.

1 26. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of muting the first audio  
2 source includes muting a microphone audio input.

1 27. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system,  
2 the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer including a first audio  
3 source and a second audio source, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the  
4 speaker from the first audio source and from the second audio source, the speaker operable to  
5 convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:

- 6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;

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7           b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the computer  
8           program un-muting the first audio source without user intervention;  
9           c) generating a stimulus; and  
10          d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.

1        28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2        includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

1        29. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2        includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

1        30. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2        includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box.

1        31. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2        includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume control.

1        32. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2        includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check box and by setting the  
3        value of a volume control.

1        33. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2        includes un-muting a MIDI input.

1        34. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2        includes un-muting a WAVE input.

1        35. (original) The method of claim 27, further including:  
2           a) sending first data to the server;  
3           b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4           c) sending second data to the computer.

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1 36. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:

3       a) un-muting an audio source without user intervention;  
4       b) generating a stimulus; and  
5       c) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether the user heard the stimulus.

1 37. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the first audio source includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check  
3 box.

1 38. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the first audio source includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a volume  
3 control.

1 39. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the first audio source includes un-muting the first audio source by setting the value of a check  
3 box and by setting the value of a volume control.

1 40. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the first audio source includes un-muting a WAVE input.

1 41. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein the act of un-muting  
2 the first audio source includes un-muting a MIDI input.

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